

REMARKS

None of the claims have been amended herein. Claims 1-50 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 7-9 AND 11-50 UNDER 35 U.S.C 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER HUXTER (U.S. PATENT PUBLICATION NO. 2002/0107820)(previously cited) IN VIEW OF YANG (U.S. PATENT PUBLICATION NO. 2002/0072945)(previously cited):

The present invention as recited in claim 1, for example, is related to a method for processing physical distribution information. The method comprises receiving and registering schedule information from a customer member, corresponding to availability status information of the customer member for receiving a package addressed to the customer member, the schedule information comprising availability status information of the customer member for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period and receiving a shipment request from a sender of a package. The method further comprises determining a delivery form relating to said shipment request with reference to the registered schedule information of the customer member and generating delivery request information for a distributor in accordance with the determined delivery form, when the determined delivery form involves a movement of the package, and wherein said receiving and registering schedule information is carried out asynchronously with said determining and is carried out without relationship with a specific shipment request.

Again, neither Huxter nor Yang, individually or combined, disclose “receiving and registering schedule information from a customer member, corresponding to availability status information of the customer member for receiving a package addressed to the customer member, the schedule information comprising availability status information of the customer member for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period...[and] receiving a shipment request from a sender of a package,” as recited in claim 1, for example.

At page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Huxter at paragraphs [0178] – [0183] teaches that the customer registers information via an interface with the Application Server prior to making a purchase with an Etailer, the prior registration not necessarily having a relationship with a specific shipment request.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Huxter discloses the customer registering contact information including their preferred communication method (i.e., email, telephone, post) and a list of preferred ACP sites (see paragraph [0179]). Further, the customer also specifies a

personal pin number. As described in paragraph [00183], the customer must first order goods from the Etailer in order to schedule a delivery to an ACP site, and as a part of the purchase transaction the Etailer will ask the customer to specify the address to which the goods should be delivered.

That is, in Huxter, the customer information fails to include any information regarding "availability status" prior to ordering goods. Thus, in Huxter, the customer must first order goods in order to schedule a delivery.

Further, at page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Yang discloses a buyer marking calendar days for availability of delivery at paragraphs [0060] – [0065]. The Applicants respectfully submit that in Yang, the buyer first reviews the product items, then decides to order products and goes into an order mode prior to marking the calendar to indicate the days for which the buyer wanted the ordered products to be delivered (see paragraph [0063] and [0065]).

In Huxter and Yang, the buyers do not register schedule information including availability status information of the buyer asynchronously without any relationship with a specific shipment request. Instead, in both Huxter and Yang, the registering schedule information is carried out synchronously with determining a delivery form and in relationship with a specific purchase order. Therefore, the combination of Huxter and Yang fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness over the present invention. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 5, 6 AND 10 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER HUXTER IN VIEW OF YANG AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF PARTOVI (U.S. PATENT NO. 2002/0126813):

Dependent claims 5, 6 and 10 indirectly or directly depend from claim 1. Therefore, the comments above in Section I may be applied here also.

III. CONCLUSION:

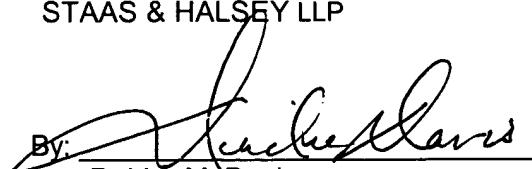
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore, defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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